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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
9 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The India-Pakistan Situation
(Report # 24 - As of 4:00 p.m. EDT)

1. Both sides report heavy fighting throughout the day in many areas of the front between West Pakistan and India. Pakistani officials continue to claim their troops have held at all points and have pushed across the border in the Ferozepore area of India, south of Lahore. There is still no confirmation of Pakistani claims that their troops have advanced some 18 miles into Indian territory but American newsmen personally observed a Pakistani offensive under way in the Kasur-Ferozepore area.

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2. The Pakistani counteroffensive may be the beginning of a major battle. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] neither the Indian First Armored Division nor the Pakistani First Armored Division, both in the area, have yet been fully committed in the hostilities. A serious incursion by Pakistani troops into the Punjab area, however, could trigger commitment of both divisions. Under such circumstances, other army units being held in reserve might also be sent into the battle.

3. [REDACTED] many trucks and buses full of tribal irregulars have been observed leaving the city yesterday and today. Their mission is not clear but the government may hope to use them to patrol rear areas or even as a reserve force behind regular army troops.

4. On the other side of India, the Indian Army has begun moving troops into positions along the West Bengal - East Pakistan border. Their mission reportedly is to take over from border police. [REDACTED] two Indian divisions are being deployed in West Bengal opposite the border and a third division is being brought into the area.

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A fourth division reportedly is now in position along the northern border of East Pakistan. This concentration of troops facing East Pakistan gives the Indians overwhelming military superiority in case of hostilities in that theater.

6. Terrain conditions may limit India's flexibility in attempting to meet Pakistan's counterattack in the Punjab. The border area for 50 miles to the south of Ferozepore is reported under five feet of water as a result of monsoon flooding, ruling out an Indian sweep around the southern flank of the Pakistani concentration. Indian forces at Kasur in the southern sector of the front must meet the counterattack head-on.

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7. On the political scene, President Kaunda of Zambia is reported to have said today that a Commonwealth peace team of four or five members to mediate the Indian-Pakistani conflict is expected to be announced soon. He said that he had proposed Britain, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and New Zealand for the team.

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the UK may impose economic sanctions against India and Pakistan if they fail to heed the UN call for a cease-fire. Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said that his country sides with India, as Pakistan and "another big power in the north" are arms of a nutcracker attempting to crush India, Singapore, and other Southeast Asian countries. In India itself, 5,000 demonstrators appeared at the Indonesian Embassy in New Delhi to protest Sukarno's support of Pakistan, and in Indonesia demonstrations were made against the Indian Consulate in Medan.

8. Chou En-lai today continued the Chinese propaganda effort aimed at shaking Indian resolve in the Kashmir war, again "sternly warning" that India must bear responsibility for "all the consequences arising from its extended aggression." Chou followed in the pattern of other Chinese statements on the crisis by avoiding any specific threat of Chinese action.

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9. Chou gave particular stress to charges that the US and the USSR were responsible for India's "large-scale armed attack on Pakistan." He charged that the Indian "military venture" would not have been possible without US consent and support and that recent Soviet statements regarding Kashmir encouraged India to carry out military operations against Pakistan.

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